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97 Coffee St
San Fernando
Trinidad W.I.
November 27

Sir Robert Falconer,
Toronto University,
Canada,

Sir

I am desirous of entering the above University to undertake a Medical course, but entertain some doubts whether I shall be admitted as a medical student without having to sit for the "matriculation exam:", as I do not possess the necessary diploma which would exempt me from sitting for such an examination, but I attended a high school (Naparima College) in this Island for 4 years where I did the work up to the "junior class", but did not do the work of the junior class, as I had to leave College just at that time, I may here mention that I never stood low down in my class at the last examination (Local Cambridge) which I sat for I came 4th in a class of 12 boys & very often at the exams held by the masters at the close of the term I generally came first. I mention the above matter to you because the Rev Dr Coffin advised

December 1917

me to do so, in order that you should have considera
consideration the work I have already done, I have
spoken to him on the subject & he told me it was
not customary for a boy to be admitted into a
University unless he has passed at least the
Junior Local Cambridge Examination
Although it is not the custom to allow a boy to enter
unless he possesses a Junior Cambridge Diploma
at least, I should be much thankful if you can
possibly see a way of dealing with my case as an
exceptional one, because I am trying to study for the
Matriculation Exam it will very likely take up a
period of about 6 or 8 months during that
time I should like to read over instead some of the
text books prescribed to be used during the first
year, thereby learning some of the difficulties that
experience before.
I should also be thankful if you would let me
know the College fees either monthly or annually
for a Medical Course, the cost of books for the year
& also the cost of boarding in the College dormitory
I prefer to stay in the dormitory than
elsewhere
Hoping to let me have a favourable

I am for
yours most obediently
A Lamidar

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December 17th, 1917

Mr. A. Jamadar,

97 Coffee Street,

San Fernando, Trinidad, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Jamadar:

The standard of entrance into the Faculty of Medicine in the University is the Junior Matriculation examination including Latin. This standard is set not only by the University but in agreement with other Canadian Universities, and also in accordance with the regulations of the Ontario Medical Council. It is therefore not in my power to make any diminution in what is required. Moreover, I know that the Faculty of Medicine, which finally deals with this matter, will only accept certificates of some such examination as they know to be equivalent to our Junior Matriculation examination. In fact I do not think that all the Junior Local Examination standards would be sufficient for entrance. Something higher would be necessary. The difficulty lies here, the medical course is a very difficult one with 2 1/2 years of preliminary scientific study and 2 1/2 years of clinical work, and unless a student enters well equipped it will be impossible for him to attain the necessary standing each year, and it would be a very great misfortune to him to enter so ill prepared as to find himself facing insuperable barriers in the way of passing when he has been admitted. It is therefore the greatest kindness to a student to urge him to enter the University with the best possible training and highest standards of matriculation. I would urge you, if you have determined to enter upon the study of

medicine with us, to take time to secure the best possible preliminary training before you come.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.